

REVIEWS

Plants in health and disease*

While this little book is said by the authors to be nothing more than a summary of a course of lectures given at the University of Manchester in 1915-16, it is certainly a most readable and remarkably compact account of the life of plants. This is a war book, and reveals to us in a small degree the bit which the scientific men of England are doing in their great crisis. The lectures were addressed to an audience of men and women gardeners and "allotment-holders" of Manchester and vicinity. While the abundant illustrations which accompanied the lectures were necessarily omitted from the book, the text is, nevertheless, made very clear and attractive by the copious use of familiar facts and principles underlying gardening and horticulture. Professor Weiss has written the first seven chapters on the general features of plant life; Mr. Robinson the following five chapters on fungous diseases; Mr. Imms four chapters on injurious insects and animals, and one on beneficial animals.

E. W. OLIVE.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

OCTOBER 10, 1916

The meeting of October 10 was held in the lecture room of the Department of Botany, Columbia University. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 P.M. by the President. Twenty-eight persons were present.

The minutes of the meeting held May 31 were read and approved. Dr. H. S. Piatt, 561 West 141st St., New York City, and Miss Ruth B. Fisher, St. Marks, New Brighton, N. Y., who had been received as members of the Club by the Field Committee during the summer were formally elected to membership.

Several members responded to the call of the president for an account of some of their botanical experiences during the vacation.

* Weiss, F. E., Imms, A. D., and Robinson, W. *Plants in health and disease*. Pp. i-viii + 1-143. Longmans, Green & Co., 1916. Price 50 cents.

Professor Harper exhibited a number of fine specimens of *Peridermium cerebrum* obtained from *Pinus* at Bedford, Va., in September. They were for the most part of the globoid type found on limbs. Professor Harper called attention to the manner in which the bark of the burl sloughs off after the spores have been shed. The appearance of the cortex at this time of year indicates that the burl has made considerable growth in preparation for next year's crop of spores.

Dr. E. W. Olive spoke of the interesting parasitic fungus that has been found on the birch trees in the vicinity of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Prof. G. M. Reed has been conducting an investigation of this fungus and will make a further report later. Dr. Olive also described briefly another parasite which has recently come to his attention. This new fungus appears to have some characteristics of a rust while at the same time possessing features distinctive of the smuts.

Two rather rare and interesting species of *Boletus* were exhibited by Dr. M. Levine, who spoke of the work of his students on this group. *Boletus subsanguineus* is an especially rare form collected only once or twice since it was originally described. Dr. Levine also exhibited water color illustrations of this species and of *B. retipes*.

Mr. Norman Taylor spoke of his experience in burning salt marshes at a time when all of the plants were in a vigorously growing condition. It is unknown what chemical properties of these plants account for their high inflammability.

Prof. T. E. Hazen reported on his observations of the various kinds of insects that visit certain flowers, especially the lilies and pickerel weeds. Prof. Hazen has made a number of photographs of insects at work on the flowers. He expects to publish a paper on this subject in the near future.

Dr. H. B. Douglas favored the Club with a highly interesting account of his summer's experiences as an amateur mycologist, in the Maine woods. Mrs. Douglas and he had collected and identified over seventy species of fungi and were able to testify as to the edible qualities of a number of species not heretofore placed on the desirable list. Their experiences in connection

with two cases of mushroom poisoning will be related at a future meeting.

Mr. Henry Thurston, who had spent the summer at the Illinois Agriculture Station, described the blister canker, *Nummularia*, which is quite prevalent in that region. Mr. Thurston exhibited a specimen to show how the fungus causes the large cankers on apple trees.

Another apple tree canker, one caused by *Bacillus amylovorus*, was described by Mr. E. L. Nixon.

Dr. F. J. Seaver closed the program with an account of his work collecting Discomycetes during the summer.

Adjournment followed.

B. O. DODGE,
Secretary.

NEWS ITEMS

Professor A. S. Hitchcock, systematic agrostologist, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has returned from a five months' tour of the Hawaiian Islands. He explored in considerable detail the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Oahu, and Kauai, and brought back important collections of plants. He was accompanied by his son Albert E. Hitchcock, as assistant.

The American Museum of Natural History, planning to further forestry education and research, has appointed a forester, Barrington Moore, A.B., M.F., as Associate Curator of Woods and Forestry.

Dr. J. N. Rose has returned from explorations in Venezuela.

ERRATA

Page 136, last line of foot-note, for 1914, read 1915.

Page 204, 8th line from bottom, for *Floodmani*, read *Flodmani*.